

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 377

August 9, 1995, 4:17 p.m.
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INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS/Indian Education

SUBJECT: Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 1977.
Gorton motion to table the Bingaman amendment No. 2310.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 68-30

SYNOPSIS: As reported, H.R. 1977, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide \$12.053 billion in new budget authority, which is \$69 million more than the House-passed bill provided, \$1.76 billion less than the Administration requested, and 11 percent less than the fiscal year (FY) 1995 level.

The Bingaman amendment would appropriate \$81.3 million for Indian Education (equal to the FY 1995 amount; the bill will appropriate \$54.7 million), and would offset this increase by making a 2 percent pro rata reduction in all non-entitlement accounts funded by this Act.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Gorton moved to table the Bingaman amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The Federal Government has numerous programs that benefit Indians directly or indirectly. The line-item in this appropriations bill for "Indian Education" did indeed receive a reduction of \$27 million from last year's level to a new level of \$54 million, but that line-item does not even count all the funding for Indian education that is in this one bill. When all education items are totaled, this bill will actually provide a slight increase in funding for Indian education, even though total bill funding will decline by 11 percent. Our colleagues tell us that Indian education should be a high priority--we agree, and we have made it a high priority. Overall, this line-item represents a minor portion of the funding that is spent each year to educate Indian children. For example, within this bill we have \$318 million in impact aid for Indians, and the Department of Education spends \$470 million per year on Indian programs. Our colleagues need to look at the larger picture, and realize we have already held the line in protecting funding to educate Native

(See other side)

YEAS (68)			NAYS (30)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (44 or 83%)	Democrats (24 or 53%)		Republicans (9 or 17%)	Democrats (21 or 47%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Breaux	Burns	Akaka	Mack- ²	Bradley- ⁴
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bumpers	Campbell	Baucus		
Bennett	Jeffords	Byrd	Domenici	Biden		
Bond	Kassebaum	Dodd	Hatch	Bingaman		
Brown	Kempthorne	Exon	Inhofe	Boxer		
Chafee	Lott	Ford	Kyl	Bryan		
Coats	Lugar	Glenn	McCain	Conrad		
Cochran	McConnell	Graham	Nickles	Daschle		
Cohen	Murkowski	Hollings	Thomas	Dorgan		
Coverdell	Packwood	Johnston		Feingold		
Craig	Pressler	Kennedy		Feinstein		
D'Amato	Roth	Kohl		Harkin		
DeWine	Santorum	Lautenberg		Heflin		
Dole	Shelby	Leahy		Inouye		
Faircloth	Simpson	Levin		Kerrey		
Frist	Smith	Lieberman		Kerry		
Gorton	Snowe	Mikulski		Murray		
Gramm	Specter	Moseley-Braun		Pell		
Grams	Stevens	Moynihan		Robb		
Grassley	Thompson	Nunn		Simon		
Gregg	Thurmond	Pryor		Wellstone		
Hatfield	Warner	Reid				
		Rockefeller				
		Sarbanes				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

Americans, which is far more than we have been able to do for virtually every other program of the Federal Government. We respect their motivation in offering this amendment, but we cannot accept it.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

The 30-percent cut in the Indian Education line-item that will be made by this bill is extreme. The result of that cut will be the elimination of the Indian education programs which are funded on a competitive basis through the Department of Education's Office of Indian Education. Under that program, grants are given to tribes and tribal organizations to work with public schools and local communities on a variety of educational issues. More than 90 percent of Indian children are educated in public schools. These grants give Indians a chance to be involved in the education of their own children. Many Senators have argued that these grants may be meritorious but we cannot afford to give them any longer. However, when we travel about our States, the one area of the budget that our constituents always ask us to spend more money on is education. They certainly do not ask us to spend more money on defense, yet the Senate appears to be intent on passing a Defense Appropriations Bill that will add \$7 billion to the amount requested by the Pentagon. All we are asking for is \$26 million, and, unlike on the Defense Appropriations Bill, we are not asking for additional spending--we have provided offsets. This amendment is fiscally conservative because it will cut other bill spending in order to pay for the one area of spending that the American people consistently tell us they want to be fully protected. The Bingaman amendment is meritorious, and we thus urge our colleagues to oppose the motion to table it.